



# Rockville City Police Department

## Police Crime Report

For the Week Ending – August 21, 2016

### **Tips of the Week:**

*Across the country there has been an increase various types of Utility Scams.*

*The Rockville City Police Department would like to provide residents with ways to protect themselves against these types of scams.*

#### Phone Call Scam

*A victim receives a call from someone claiming to be with their local utility company. The caller says that they're about to cut off your service due to an overdue bill. The caller then tells the victim that they can prevent the cutoff, if the victim provides them with a debit card, credit card or a Green Dot Money Pak or some other type of money card.*

*IT'S A SCAM. Should you receive such a call, do the following:*

*\*Check the phone number the caller is calling from and make a note of it. Many scammers use "spoofed" telephone numbers that actually look like your local utility company, but are not. When in doubt, call your local utility company's customer service number to verify your account.*

*\*Pull out your last utility bill statement and ask the caller to tell you the account number and the amount due.*

*\*Never ever give out your personal information, such as your credit card, social security number, date of birth, etc.*

*\*Hang up on the caller and contact your local police department and your utility company. If possible, please provide to the police the caller's name, company they stated they were with, and if you have caller ID, the phone number from which the caller has called from.*

#### Utility Worker Imposter Scam

*SCAM #1 - A subject posing as a utility employee knocks at the door and states to the victim that there is a major water leak (or gas leak) in the area and that he/she needs to come inside the house to check the pipes/lines in the basement. The unsuspecting victim allows the worker into the home and takes them down to the basement to view the pipes/lines. While the victim and the worker are in the basement, a second subject enters and removes valuables from the home. Then after a few minutes the worker tells the victim that all is okay and that he/she needs to leave. It isn't until later that the victim discovers their property missing.*

*SCAM #2 – A subject posing as a utility employee arrives at the victim's residence and tells the victim that they have an overdue bill. The subject then tries to solicit a "payment" from the victim in order to avoid a cut off of their utility.*

*SCAM #3 – A subject posing as a utility employee arrives at the victim's residence and tells them that he/she is there to reset the victim's meter. The subject then tells the victim that there is a monetary charge for the service, and if the victim doesn't comply, then he/she will be back to remove the meter.*

*IT'S A SCAM. Should you have someone arrive at your door stating that they are with a utility company, do the following:*

*\*Ask to see their company ID. If the individual does not have the proper ID then contact the police immediately.*

*\*If you are unsure of the worker's ID, contact the utility company to verify the employee and the nature of the work that is to be done.*

*\*Utility workers do not collect a bill payment by going to residences. Nor do they engage in soliciting products or services.*

*\*Never let anyone in your home to check for electrical wiring, natural gas pipes or appliances unless you have scheduled an appointment or reported a problem.*

*If you have any questions regarding utility services, solicitation or fraud, contact your local utility company:*

*PEPCO customer service – 202-833-7500 / <http://www.pepco.com>*

*WSSC customer service – 301-206-9772 / <http://www.wsscwater.com>*

*City of Rockville Water – 240-314-8420*

*Washington Gas customer service – 703-750-1000 / <http://www.washgas.com>*

*You can also contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-382-4357 / [www.consumer.ftc.gov](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov).*

*Help us help you, by staying safe and not becoming a victim.*

## **City Police Reported Incidents**

A weekly Crime Report of serious incidents is provided by the Rockville City Police Department to serve as an overview of incidents occurring within the City Limits of Rockville. Please note this summary does not reflect every reported incident that has occurred. Also the words “arrested” and “charged” do not imply guilt.

## **A R R E S T S**

On 08/17/16 between 6:41 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., a male, age 21, was arrested for first and fourth degree burglary, auto theft, and destruction of property, following an incident that occurred in the 500 block of Mt. Vernon Place.

On 8/19/16, a male, age 34 was arrested for aggravated assault following an incident that occurred on 8/16/16 in the 100 block of England Terrace. The complainant reported he was approached by an unknown subject between the hours of 8:50 a.m. and 9:02 a.m. The suspect followed the victim to a nearby business and assaulted him.

## INCIDENTS

200 block of Meadow Hall Drive, the complainant reported that an unknown subject removed a purse and a cell phone from an unsecured vehicle on 08/16/16 between 3:00 p.m. and 5:12 p.m.

100 block of Gibbs Street, the complainant reported he was speaking to a female on 08/21/16 at 5:09 a.m. when the female's boyfriend struck the victim in the face.

800 block of Rockville Pike, the complainant reported that on 08/20/16 at 7:00 p.m. he parked his vehicle. When he returned to his vehicle at 10:00 a.m. on 08/21/16 it was not there. Surveillance video revealed a suspect driving off in his vehicle at 1:03 a.m. The vehicle was later located a short distance away. ***The suspect is described as:***

### **Light Skinned/M, dark hair**

5900 block of Coral Sea Avenue, the complainant reported he had hired a handyman to perform work at his home on 08/18/16. At 4:00 p.m. The victim later discovered \$500.00 cash was missing from his wallet.

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*The Rockville City Police Department is a Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency.*